

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 SSO-00 SS-07 ISO-00 /017 W

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O R 162019Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2871

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMCONSUL RIO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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DEPARTMENT FOR ARA/ECP

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OREP (JAVITS, JACOB K.)

SUBJECT: SENATOR JAVITS VISIT JAN 10-12

REF: STATE 10769

1. SENATOR JAVITS VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL AND HELPFUL. THERE WERE NO SUBSTANTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE/LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS. HE MET WITH THE PRESIDENT, MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FINANCE, DIRECTOR PLANNING OFFICE, A SMALL GROUP OF EDITORS/COMMENTATORS FROM LOCAL MEDIA, AND A CROSS-SECTION OF US/COLOMBIAN BUSINESSMEN. THE SENATOR WAS WELL RECEIVED; HE ON HIS PART WAS ABLE TO INFORM HIMSELF ON A COUNTRY HE HAD NEVER VISITED BEFORE, AND HE TOLD US THAT THE VIEWS OF THE PRESIDENT AND OTHERS ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS, ESPECIALLY US-LA RELATIONS AND TRADE, HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN ORDERING HIS THOUGHTS AND SHAPING HIS CONCEPTS.

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2. IN ALL HIS CONVERSATIONS, THE SENATOR DESCRIBED THE

ESSENTIAL PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT AS AN EFFORT TO REACQUAINT HIMSELF WITH LATIN AMERICA, AND TO REVIEW IDEAS ABOUT STRENGTHENING AND UPGRADING US-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS. OTHER POINTS HE MADE WERE; A) RENEWED INTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA WOULD BE THE MOTIF IN THE US OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS; B) WITH FRUSTRATION OVER THE UN AND OTHER UNHAPPY INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD TURN TOWARD REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND LINKS; C) COMPLETION OF A SATISFACTORY TREATY WITH PANAMA COULD PROVIDE A DRAMATIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL POINT OF DEPARTURE AND PEG FOR A NEW POLICY AND RENEWED INTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA. THE SENATOR SPOKE AT LENGTH WITH THE PRESIDENT ABOUT THE PANAMA CANAL QUESTION AND THIS IS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY. PUBLICLY, HE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT A TREATY WOULD BE CONCLUDED AND RATIFIED IN DUE COURSE, BUT NOT BEFORE THE US ELECTIONS.

3. IN EACH OF HIS MEETINGS, THE OUTSTANDING HIGHLIGHT WAS THE UNIFORM COLOMBIAN STRESS ON TRADE AND ACCESS TO US MARKETS AS THE MATTER OF MOST IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO COLOMBIA, AND AS THE AREA WHICH PROVIDED THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY FOR FORGING NEW AND CLOSER US LINKS WITH THE REGION. WHILE ALL RECOGNIZED THE VALUE OF THE GSP ACTION, BOTH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE COLOMBIANS, AND INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT, EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT MORE PRODUCTS WERE NOT INCLUDED AND THAT MORE POTENTIAL FOR INCREASING COLOMBIA AEXPORT HAD NOT BEEN OFFERED. THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING POINTED OUT THAT THE GOC HAD CONSCIOUSLY ADOPTED A POLICY OF MOVING TOWARD FREER TRADE, AND WANTED TO LOWER ITS TARIFFS, A POSITION WHICH WAS CREATING A PROBLEM FOR IT IN THE ANDEAN PACT WHERE MOST OTHER COUNTRIES (EXCEPT CHILE) WANTED TO BE PROTECTIONIST. THE SENATOR TOLD US THAT HE WAS DEEPLY IMPRESSED WITH THE IMPORTANCE AND EMPHASIS GIVEN TO TRADE AS A MAJOR ISSUE AND FACET OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS. HE HAD NOT THOUGHT IT THAT IMPORTANT WHEN HE ARRIVED, BUT AS A RESULT OF THIS VISIT, HE SAID, HE WANTED TO GIVE SOME CONSIDERATION TO WHAT ADDITIONAL THINGS THE US MIGHT DO IN THIS FIELD FOR LATIN AMERICA. HE MAY WELL DISCUSS THIS POINT WITH THE SECRETARY.

4. COLOMBIANS EXPRESSED MILD INTEREST IN THE SENATOR'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUGGESTION THAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY MIGHT BE ANOTHER AREA IN WHICH US-LA COOPERATION COULD BE STRENGTHENED. THE SENATOR OFFERED NO SPECIFIC PROPOSAL, AND MOST AUDIENCES HE TALKED TO, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT, SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE PROPOSED.

5. THE SENATOR EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT WE SHOULD INSTITUTION-

ALIZE OR REGIONALIZE OUR RELATIONSHIPS MORE. THE GENERAL COLOMBIAN VIEW EXPRESSED BY ALL WAS THAT THE OAS AND THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM WERE HELPFUL AND SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED, AND THAT THE US SHOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY A STRONG ROLE IN THE HEMISPHERE. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE EDITORS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE US SHOULD PAY SPECIAL CONSIDERATION AND ATTENTION TO LA. THE FOREIGN MINISTER REPEATED THE GENERAL THOUGHTS DESCRIBED IN BOGOTA 11776 OF DEC 9, 1975 (AND DID SO EVEN MORE STRONGLY WITH CODEL WOLFF).

6. THE SENATOR RAISED THE QUESTION OF NARCOTICS WITH THE PRESIDENT, WHO STRESSED THE GOC'S DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH US AND RECALLED PRESIDENT FORD'S OFFER OF SIZEABLE ASSISTANCE. HE NOTED THAT TALKS WERE IN PROGRESS ON ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND INDICATED HIS EXPECTATION AND DESIRE FOR HELP, NOTING THAT COLOMBIA COULD NOT COMBAT BIG CRIME WITH JUST ITS OWN RESOURCES. THE SENATOR OBSERVED PRIVATELY TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE USG SHOULD BE GENEROUS, AND HE INDICATED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WOULD BRING THIS UP WITH THE SECRETARY.

7. PRESIDENT LOPEZ ASKED THE SENATOR'S HELP IN RATIFYING THE QUITA SUENO TREATY, AND THE SENATOR REPLIED HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT IMMEDIATELY (BOGOTA 349). THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT WE HAD A COOPERATIVE PROGRAM FOR AFTOSA AND INTER-AMERICAN HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION, OBSERVING THAT RECENT CONSULTATIONS HAVE MOVED THESE MATTERS ALONG SATISFACTORILY. THE PROBLEM OF THE SIERRA CLUB INJUNCTION WAS EXPLAINED TO THE SENATOR (WHO SADLY SHOOK HIS HEAD)

8. THE SENATOR GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE. A SUMMARY IS AVAILABLE IN USINFO ARF 55, JAN 14. VAKY

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